

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/664,505

Examiner

Jared J. Fureman

Applicant(s)

VRAA ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone interview on 11/03/2003.
 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 6-9.
 3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
 5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 6. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**
7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>herewith</u> |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment, filed on 8/25/2003, which has been entered in the file. Claims 1 and 6-9 are pending.

Examiner's amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William F. Noval (22,049) on 11/3/2003. During the interview, Mr. Noval authorized an examiner's amendment that was required in order to correct any claim objections or rejections under 35 USC 112 2nd paragraph, and to provide claim limitations consistent with the arguments filed on 8/25/2003, thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) Sheet media package system comprising:
a light tight cartridge which includes an open tray for holding a plurality of sheet media and a resealable cover closing off said open tray; and

a radio-frequency identification transponder disposed on a flexible sheet located at the a bottom of said cartridge beneath said plurality of sheet media and which can be communicated with while said sheet media are removed from said tray, with or without physical contact with the transponder, and which stores relevant digital data; and

wherein said transponder is disposed ~~on the inside of said packaging~~ and remains in said cartridge after removal of all of said sheet media.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein said transponder includes a digital read/write memory and wherein said memory stores digital data representing one or more of the following, cartridge manufacturing history, cartridge recycling data, cartridge error codes.

7. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein said transponder includes digital read/write memory and wherein said memory stores digital data representing one or more of the following, media size, initial number of media sheets in packaging, media type, media lot number, media manufacturing history, media sensitometry, media expiration date.

8. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein said transponder includes a digital read/write memory and wherein said memory stores digital data representing one or more of the

following, unique transponder ID number, packaging ID number, messages for customers, sales or service personnel, upgrade software for sheet media system.

9. (previously amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said transponder includes a digital read/write memory and wherein said memory stores digital data representing one or more of the following, number of media sheets remaining;

any measure system parameter, including media calibration, image processing look-up tables, motor speeds, temperature, errors, transfer functions, system ID number, media usage, density patch tracking;

any information relating to recycling of a media packaging, including, number of times recycled, date of recycling, time from last recycle, error codes that can prevent packaging from being reused;

system failures, including media jams, optic failure, communication problems, recalibration;

times to schedule service, preventive maintenance, error fix, media supply; codes to facilitate auditing of media, packaging, customer, media system.

10-13. (canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 6-9 have been allowed over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest: a sheet media package system including a radio-frequency identification transponder disposed on a flexible sheet located at a bottom of a cartridge beneath a plurality of sheet media and which can be communicated with while the sheet media are removed from a tray included with the cartridge, wherein the transponder is disposed inside of the packaging and remains in the cartridge after removal of all of the sheet media; in combination with the other claimed limitations as set forth in the claims.

Without the benefit of applicant's teachings, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the various teachings of the prior art in a manner so as to create the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Spurr et al (US 6,628,316 B1), Ishii et al (US 2003/0124471 A1), Spurr et al (US 6,527,356 B1), Gujar et al (US 6,446,208 B1), Muller (US 4,960,994), Haines (US 2003/0076520 A1), Teraura (US 2002/0170973 A1), Prenn (US 6,598,795 B1), Nakamura (US 6,546,210 B1), and Colombi et al (US 6,511,148 B1) all teach sheet media package systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared J. Fureman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0424. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 PM M-T, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

November 5, 2003

Jared J. Fureman
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Art Unit 2876